

WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER APRIL 2026



SAVE THE DATE!
**West Virginia State
Amateur Radio Council
Convention**
JULY 25, 2026

MIKES METHOD

Mike Smoot, KD8GWH, told me about his method of labeling the ends of electrical cords so he could identify them later. He uses plastic tabs off bread, potato and onion bags. Once you see it, you'll wonder why you weren't doing it all along.

Tabs off potato and onion bags are larger and give more room to write on. You might want to write on both sides so you can always read the tag. The same tags should work for small coax as well. And larger coax with a little carving on the hole.



14.02.2

UPS for Ham Radio?

During the recent snowmagedon I began thinking about alternative power for my ham shack. I have two back up batteries, a photovoltaic panel and controller, several automobile inverters and a generator for some household appliances. All require setting up before use. I decided I wanted a UPS system just for my shack. Not the delivery service; an Uninterruptible Power Supply. I have seen them in pawn shops pretty cheap but I was told some put out lots of RFI.

A UPS has rechargeable batteries, to supply power. The duration a UPS can run depends on its capacity and the wattage consumed by the radio equipment. For example, if a setup requires 50 watts and the UPS has a capacity of 400 watt-hours, the UPS can provide power for eight hours, if no other devices draw power. Evaluating power consumption and applying it against the UPS's capacity allows users to estimate operational time.

The important technical specifications of a UPS battery for ham radio include:

- **Capacity:** Capacity is the amount of energy that the battery can store, measured in ampere-hours (Ah) or watt-hours (Wh). A capacity of 10Ah to 100Ah is common.
- **Voltage:** Typical UPS batteries are 12 or 24 volts. Most ham radios operate in this range. Match the battery to your equipment..
- **Runtime:** Runtime is how long a battery provides power before needing to recharge. This is influenced by battery capacity and load. For example, a 100Ah battery may run a 50W radio for around 20 hours.
- **Inverter Type:** Inverter type affects the quality of the output power. Pure sine wave inverters provide clean, stable power, with less RFI, making it safer, so, hams prefer pure sine wave inverters to get optimal performance.
- **Efficiency:** Efficiency is how much energy the battery converts from input to output. Higher efficiency means less energy is lost and longer runtime. A

80% efficient battery, or higher, is preferred.

For the best UPS system for your shack, use the following steps:

- Choose one with the right wattage and voltage rating for your needs. For example, if you use 100 watts, pick a UPS that delivers at least 150 watts to handle initial surges and prevent overload and ensure stable operation.
- Regularly inspect and maintain lead acid batteries to extend their life. Keep them charged and replace them every 3 to 5 years to prevent sudden power loss during operation. Li Fe Po batteries last longer.
- Ensure all connections are high quality and secure. Poor connections increase resistance and cause power loss. Heavier wires reduce voltage drop.
- Avoid exceeding the capacity by only using essential equipment. Prioritize devices based on their power consumption and function.
- Use a monitoring tool or software to track the systems performance. Some systems have built-in monitors to provide real-time data on power usage and battery status.

So far, I have checked my equipment and done the math. I've rounded up at every step. Since I don't own an amplifier, I figure I only need to allow for 150 watts when transmitting HF and monitoring UHF/VHF. A 200 watt UPS system should be enough for my shack.

While researching the UPS systems online and discussing them with other hams I mentioned my search to Bob Delauter, KE8ZEC. He steered me to the Pecron Solar Generators. For about the same price of a similar sized UPS, I can get one of their battery banks, solar panels and the necessary cables. The Pecron systems also work as a UPS. They also have other features a basic UPS lacks. By the time you read this I should have my system installed.

73

Jim Hudson, KE8PNY

Technician Bob took a ladder when he went to visit Extra Dans shack.

He wanted to see how to work the high bands.

EXTRA DANS THREE UNWRITTEN RULES FOR HAM RADIO!

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

STRUCURAL SEARCH AND RESCUE MARKINGS

ARES and RACES members might be assigned to provide communications for Federal, State or local agencies in searching structures in disaster areas. It would be helpful if those providing assistance knew the markings used to identify searched structures and what they mean. This allows follow up search teams to concentrate on unsearched buildings and avoid duplication of effort. These are not “Damage Assessments” or estimates of the damage caused. They are searches for victims and survivors of the disaster.

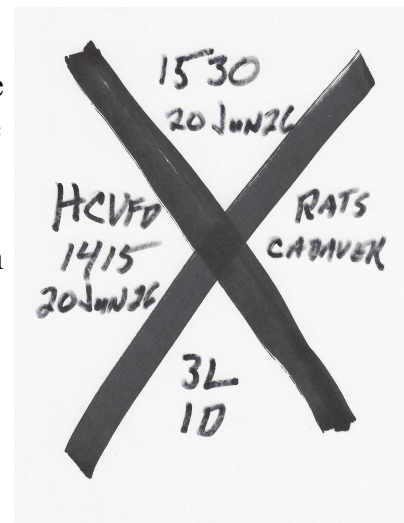
Most publications call those markings “Urban Search And Rescue” or USAR markings. I don't live in an urban area. Most West Virginians don't. But these markings would be useful to anyone searching my neighborhood. Therefore, I call them “Strucural Search And Rescue” or SSAR operations and markings. That gets my personal pet peeve on this topic out of the way early

Most of the following information is taken from the National Urban Search & Rescue (NS&R) Response Systems *RESCUE FIELD OPERATIONS GUIDE (US&R-23-FG)*. This detailed, 125 page, guide contains more information than I can squeeze into this newsletter. It is available free on line if you want more information. Let's start with the FEMA Search Assessment Marking. These are the markings we all saw in the news reports from New Orleans after Katrina.

Upon entering a structure, the search team spray paints, or marks some other way, a single slash (/) beside the front door. This indicates a search is in progress. The search party places their ID along with the date and time of entry to the left of the slash. The ID is typically familiar letters such as “HCVFD” for the Harts Creek Volunteer Fire Department or “GCSO” for the Greenbrier County Sheriffs Office. The time should be written using the 24 hour clock and the date in DDMMYY. Two fifteen in the afternoon of June 20, 2026 would be written: “1415 over 20JUN26”.

When the search is completed a crossing slash creates an “X”. The top quadrant of the X has the date and time the search is completed using the same format as above. The number of victims, both living and dead are marked in the bottom quadrant. If three survivors and one cadaver are discovered in the structure the markings would be “3L” over top of “1D”.

The right quadrant should contain ALL of the hazards identified in the structure. This could include any or all of the following: natural gas leak, spilled gasoline or other flammable, toxic gases from spilled household cleansers, rats, snakes, or collapsing floors and walls. This is also where the search party should indicate if a



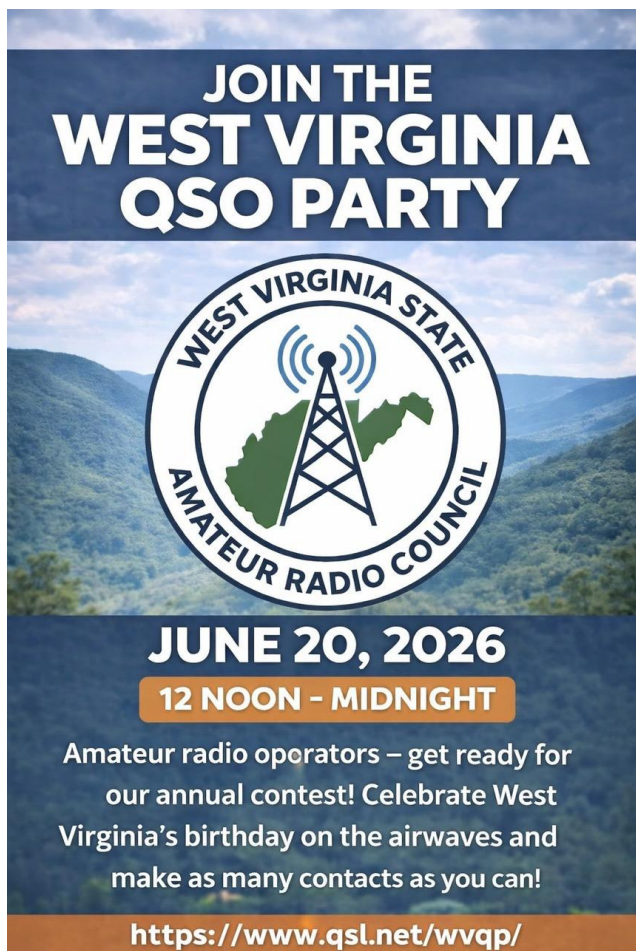
adaver is still in the structure. Human (or animal) remains would certainly be a threat to the health of follow-up searchers.

If the search is incomplete, place a filled in circle in the middle of the “X”. Inside a box below the “X” indicate the areas searched, the areas nor searched. If it was too dangerous to enter the building write “No Entry” and place a box around the “X”

If a second search is necessary that search party should mark through the original markings and place a new marking nearby.

Some search teams spray paint the markings near the front door. Others paint them on the street in front of the building. A few use broad felt tip markers to mark the wall beside the front door. Regardless of the exact placement of the markings or the method of placing them, a consistent system allows everyone to make and understand them.

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) use these markings. Other NATO countries have a different system. Learn the system where you live and you'll be prepared to help when you are called upon.



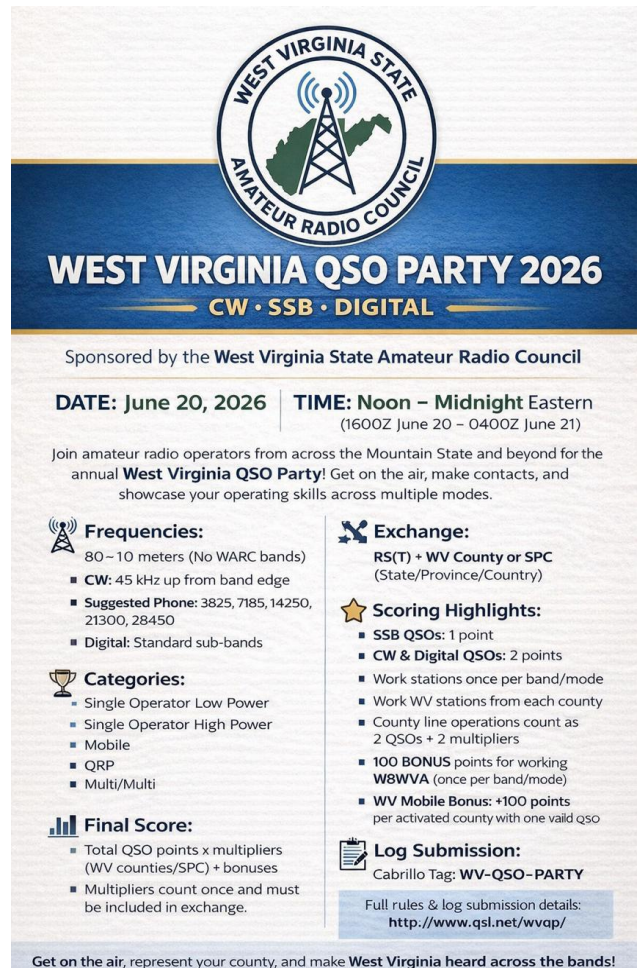
**JOIN THE
WEST VIRGINIA
QSO PARTY**



JUNE 20, 2026
12 NOON - MIDNIGHT

Amateur radio operators – get ready for our annual contest! Celebrate West Virginia's birthday on the airwaves and make as many contacts as you can!

<https://www.qsl.net/wvqp/>




WEST VIRGINIA QSO PARTY 2026
CW • SSB • DIGITAL

Sponsored by the West Virginia State Amateur Radio Council

DATE: June 20, 2026 | **TIME:** Noon – Midnight Eastern
(1600Z June 20 – 0400Z June 21)

Join amateur radio operators from across the Mountain State and beyond for the annual **West Virginia QSO Party**! Get on the air, make contacts, and showcase your operating skills across multiple modes.

 Frequencies: 80 – 10 meters (No WARC bands) CW: 45 kHz up from band edge Suggested Phone: 3825, 7185, 14250, 21300, 28450 - Digital: Standard sub-bands	 Exchange: RS(T) + WV County or SPC (State/Province/Country)
 Categories: - Single Operator Low Power - Single Operator High Power - Mobile - QRP - Multi/Multi	 Scoring Highlights: SSB QSOs: 1 point CW & Digital QSOs: 2 points - Work stations once per band/mode - Work WV stations from each county - County line operations count as 2 QSOs + 2 multipliers 100 BONUS points for working W8WVA (once per band/mode) WV Mobile Bonus: +100 points per activated county with one valid qso
 Final Score: - Total QSO points x multipliers (WV counties/SPC) + bonuses - Multipliers count once and must be included in exchange.	 Log Submission: Cabrillo Tag: WV-QSO-PARTY Full rules & log submission details: http://www.qsl.net/wvqp/

Get on the air, represent your county, and make West Virginia heard across the bands!

WV AUX COMM APRIL 11-12, 2026 UPDATE

We wanted to make you aware of some changes in the prerequisites for the Putnam County AUXCOMM class set for April 11th & 12th, 2026. The FEMA Training site is down, and those still working on getting these requirements may think they will not be able to attend this training, however, the WV SIEC has granted a special accommodation for this class. The SIEC has temporarily set aside the requirement that the prerequisites be completed before the commencement of the class, thus allowing you to attend this class.

The WV specific Auxiliary Communications (WV AUXCOMM) course will assist amateurs / groups interested in emergency communications in understanding the communication roles that are needed in today's expanding / collapsing Incident Command System (ICS) environment. Amateur radio operators receiving this training will see how they can use amateur radio experience to leverage State interoperability assets in assisting Emergency Communication Managers operating in ICS environments throughout WV.

This is a great opportunity for the WV Amateur Radio Community in support of our Federal, State, and Local First Responder Community. Course Prerequisites The course does require that students have some knowledge of the basics of the Incident Command System. This baseline knowledge is gained through: IS-100, Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS), IS-200, Incident Command System (ICS) for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents, IS-700, National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction, IS-800, National Response Framework (NRF), An Introduction, Active Amateur Radio License Technician Class or higher Preferably, an affiliation with a public safety agency, and a desire to work with COMLs in a NIMS ICS environment Currently, the FEMA WEB Site for Training is Down. - As of March 9, 2026, the SIEC has granted an accommodation / workaround for the Putnam County AUXCOMM Class effecting those students that do not have all of their prerequisites. UPCOMING WV AUXCOMM Class: Putnam County 911, Winfield, WV April 11th - 12th 2026 100 Emergency Lane, Winfield, WV

Pre-registration is required online at www.wvpst.org. Select Charleston as the Regional Office, and click on the class calendar for April, then click on the "8a WV AUXCOMM". Prerequisites: Send (email) soft copies of "All" or "What Completed Certificates" you have to Jim Mangus at wb8yst@aol.com Amateurs without ICS-100,200,700,800 may attend the Putnam County WV AUXCOMM Course, provided that they complete the prerequisites when the FEMA Web Site becomes available. Deadline for registration & prerequisites is 5 P.M. (1700 Hours) April 3rd, 2026

TWO YEARS OF WV SPLATTER

I've been going through a Space-Time crisis. But not one ever discussed on *The Big Bang Theory*. I don't have enough space or enough time for all my current hobbies. (Or enough money, but that's a seperate issue.) So something has to give.

It the two years I've been putting out the WV Splatter newsletter, I've spent more and more time on it. Coming up with ideas for each issue, researching them, drafting articles, getting illustrations for them, editing and laying out each issue; this takes a great deal of time. And that doesn't incude the time I've spent trying to maintain the mailing list for those who are not on either the WVAR or WVDXA reflectors. All of this time could be spent on other aspects of this hobby that interest me.

So I have decided that this issue will be my last. If some one steps up to take over WV Splatter. I will provide the current digital formats on hand. I simply cannot continue.